

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-13

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 ACDA-10

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R 150915Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1705

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: CSCE: LUNCHEON WITH SOVIET DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD GAVE LUNCHEON FOR US DEL MARCH 13. ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE. IN CONVERSATION KOVALEV AND OTHER SOVIET DELEGATES SOUGHT US DEL'S SUPPORT IN DRAFTING OF PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS, AND US DEL ADVISED SOVIETS THAT CONCESSIONS IN BASKET III WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE EFFECT ON DRAFTING OF THIS PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS -- SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD VICE MINISTER KOVALEV RECIPROCATED EARLIER US LUNCHEON (GENEVA 1388) WITH LUNCHEON MARCH 13 FOR FULL US DEL. KOVALEV NOTED DRAFTING OF PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY OF FORNTIERS HAD NOW BEGUN. HE HAD SPOKEN TO FRG DELEGATION HEAD AND SOVIETS AND FRG WERE AGREED THAT LANGUAGE OF FRG-SOVIET TREATY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS PRINCIPLE. FRG WOULD SAY SOMETHING TO THIS EFFECT EARLY IN DRAFTING, BUT SOVIETS STILL ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SPAIN, YUGOSLAVIA AND IRELAND, WHO HAVE TERRITORIAL

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CLAIMS THEY HOPE TO RESOLVE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER. KOVALEV

HOPED US DEL WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP SOVIETS ON THIS SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE FRG WAS READY TO ACCEPT EXISTING TREATY LANGUAGE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 41291, AMB. SHERER INDICATED US DEL WOULD TAKE AN ESSENTIALLY PASSIVE ROLE IN DISCUSSION OF THIS PRINCIPLE, BUT WOULD PRIVATELY ENCOURAGE COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, US DEL POINTED OUT THAT WESTERN DELEGATIONS KNEW THIS PRINCIPLE WAS OF CARDINAL IMPORTANCE TO SOVIETS, AND MANY WOULD BE UNWILLING TO AGREE TO IT WITHOUT SOME TRADE-OFF IN RETURN. MOST WESTERN DELEGATIONS THOUGHT PROGRESS ON BASKET III SPECIFICS, ESPECIALLY IN HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION FIELDS, WAS TOO MEAGER. SOVIETS COULD THEREFORE CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS ON DRAFTING OF INVIOABILITY PRINCIPLE BY MAKEING SOME CONCESSIONS IN THESE AREAS.

4. SOVIET REP IN SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRICIPLES (MENDELEVICH) SAID HE WAS TRYING TO FIND A FORMULATION FOR LANGUAGE ON TERRITORIAL CLAIMS WHICH WOULD SATISFY SOVIET NEEDS UNDER THIS PART OF INVIOABILITY PRINCIPLE, AND WOULD NOT PREJUDICE POSITIONS OF COUNTRIES LIKE US, CANADA, IRELAND, SPAIN, AND YOGOSLAVIA, WHICH HAD ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL PEACEFUL TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. HE ASKED US DEL IF WE COULD FIND A WORD TO SUBSTITUTE FOR "CLAIMS" WHICH WOULD CONTAIN IMPLICATION OF ILLEGALITY OR FORCEFUL CHANGE, AND EXPLAINED SOVIET AIM WOULD BE TO EXCLUDE THESE KINDS OF CLAIMS WHILE NOT EXCLUDING LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL CHANGES. US DEL REPLIED WE WOULD STUDY THIS POSSIBILITY AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH.

5. MFN -- SOVIET BASKET II REPS AGREED WITH US THAT MFN ISSUE WAS NOT WITH US, WHOSE POSITION WAS FAIRLY WELL FIXED BY ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE SITUATION, BUT SAID MFN WAS CENTRAL PROBLEM FOR THEM AND ASKED WITH SEEMINGLY GENUINE PUZZLEMENT WHAT KIND OF FORMULA MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT WITH EC-NINE. US DEL ASID NINE PROFESSED ALMOST NO GIVE ON ITS CURRENT MFN FORMULA BUT PROMISED TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH SOVIETS IF ANY NEW IDEAS WERE ELICITED FORM NINE. SOVIET REPS FORESAW DIFFICULTIES
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WITH WESTERN RESOLUTION ON BUSINESS CONTACTS, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONFERENCE, SAYING IT WAS BOTH TOO DETAILED AND TOO BROAD IN SCOPE. (LATER ON SAME DAY EAST MADE HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON WEST'S RESOLUTION ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION, THUS GIVING IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE UNWILLING TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS ON BUSINESS INFORMATION AND CONTACTS, AT LEAST PENDING MORE WESTERN FLEXIBILITY ON MFN.)

6. BASKET III PREAMBLE -- SOVIET DEL REITERATED INTEREST I PARALLEL PROGRESS OF DRAFTING OF BASKET III PREAMBLE, AS WORK ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS PROGRESSED. US DEL REPLIED WE ALSO FAVORED SUCH PARALLEL MOVEMENT, BUT THOUGHT A COMPROMISE COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD SATISFY SOVIET NEEDS FOR PREAMBULAR CAVEATS. US DEL HAD HEARD FROM EASTERN AND WESTERN DELEGATES THE IDEA THAT PREAMBLE COULD CONTAIN STATEMENT THAT SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH FULL RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES GUIDING RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. THIS SOLUTION SEEMED TO ENJOY WIDE SUPPORT AND, IF IT PROVED ACCEPTABLE, PROBLEM MIGHT BE RESOLVED. SOVIET REP, WHILE INDICATING HE COULD NOT NOW DEFINITELY ACCEPT SUCH A FORMULA, CLEARLY THOUGHT SOVIETS WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT IT. HE STRESSED THAT EARLY AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT WOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO DRAFTING OF BASKET III

SPECIFICS. US DEL ADDED THAT SUBCOMMITTEES ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION HAVE THUS FAR DRAFTED NO SIGNIFICANT TEXTS AND, CONSIDERING THEIR GREATER WORKLOAD, WERE BEHIND COMMITTEE III'S WORK ON THE PREAMBLE.

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